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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO	
10/046,688	01/16/2002	Frederic M. Newman	035	035 2748	
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ROBERT J. HARTER			EXAMINER		
4233 CLIFFSIDE DRIVE LA CROSSE, WI 54601			JENKINS, JERMAINE L		
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
			2855		

DATE MAILED: 07/08/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary - The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover shift with the correspondence address Period for Reply A SHORTENDE STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. Edentation from mybe available under the provisions of 3 CPR 1.136(s). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTH'S from the mailing date of this communication appears on the cover shift of the state of the communication of the communication of the communication of the provision of the provision and the communication of the provision of the communication of the provision the sector extended period for reply veil. by stanta, cause the application is communication of the provision of the communication of the provision of the provision of the communication of the provision of the communication of the communication. Provision of the provisi	5			M					
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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

- 1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:
 - (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.
- 2. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Newman (6,212,763) in view of Coyle Sr. (4,552,041).

In regards to claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 14, 15, 17, 18 Newman teaches torque apparatus having sensors (52, 56) coupled to tongs (28) and provide an input signal indicative of the tightening action of the tongs (28) (Column 5, lines 6-10 & 40-42). However, Newman does not teach an electrical circuit electrically coupled to the input for receiving the input signal wherein the electrical circuit includes a learning mode in which a target tightness value is determined based on the input signal, and wherein the electrical circuit includes a monitoring mode in which the input signal is compared to the target tightness value.

Coyle Sr. teaches a power tong apparatus having a sensor gage (168) that is coupled to the tongs (110) providing an input signal indicating the torque being applied, and the monitoring and learning modes are read as the calibration of the torque and the transducer based on the torque applied by the power tongs (Column 3, lines 63-68 & Column 5, lines 42-57). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate a calibration system as taught by Coyle Sr. in the torque apparatus of Newman for

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the purpose of providing the industry with a power tongs control unit capable of reliably limiting applied tongs torque at a predetermined level.

With respect to claims 2 & 12, Coyer Sr. teaches the sensor gage (168) being in fluid communication with the tongs (110) (Column 3, lines 59-63, See Figure 2).

With respect to claims 3, 6, 13 & 16, Newman teaches the transducers (52, 56) detecting the angular displacement of the tongs (28) (Column 5, lines 40-42).

With respect to claim 7, Newman teaches the output signals (71, 73) are in response to signals (74, 76) provided by the transducers (52, 56) (Column 6, lines 1-3).

With respect to claims 10 & 19, Newman teaches the use of a predetermined time within a range of tightness (Column 7, line 66 - Column 8, line 4).

In regards to claims 11 & 20, Newman and Coyer Sr. in combination teach the claimed invention except for providing a second input signal in response to the tongs tightening a second joint and tightening a plurality of joints. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide any additional amount of inputs and joints to increase the accuracy of the torque measurements.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jermaine Jenkins whose telephone number is 703-305-3839. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8am-430pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Lefkowitz can be reached on 703-305-4816. The fax phone numbers for the

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organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-306-7382 for regular communications and 703-305-3839 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-306-3431.

Jermaine Jenkins A.U. 2855 JJ June 27, 2003

EDWARD LEFKOWITZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800